

THE JACKSON LABORATORY
BAR HARBOR, MAINE

MEMORANDUM

16 January 1973

To: DR. F. NORDSIEK
From: H. MEIER *HM*
Subj: APPLICATION NO. 894, "NICOTINE EFFECTS UPON AGGRESSIVE
BEHAVIOR", BY VOLZELLI AND MUSSINI

As I could not judge this application myself, I indeed called upon one of my colleagues who, as the reviewer stated, is in this "kind of business". Here is his verbatim and confidential report to me:

"As I mentioned to you over the telephone, I think this is a very worthwhile project outline and can be of great value if the results are meaningful. My only reservation is one of procedure:

For example, isolation-induced aggression encompasses two phenomena: isolation-irritability with aggressive encounters. The two are compounded when the final analysis is done: whether it is a biochemical or behavioral analysis. Additionally, these two are further compounded by nicotine treatment. Personally, I would have liked to have seen the manner in which they intend to interpret the results: this means that I would have liked to have seen the various control groups for each of the treatments and the extrapolation of an effect when comparison is made with the experimental groups. Otherwise this whole thing can end up as data salad.

Indeed, from what I know of these investigators, they are certainly competent, but sometimes even the best of us err."

I know both Volzelli and Mussini as well as the Director of the Mario Negri Institute (S. Garrattini) and think highly of all three. Unfortunately, they do not specify strains of mice or rats, which is a definite deficiency as many behavioral and biochemical differences exist among different strains.

HM:tg

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